

Abstract

[0074] Congestion problems in networks are alleviated with a method that works toward insuring that unused capacity will always exist in elements of a network that are resources which are shared by a plurality of users and which, consequently, can be overloaded. In response to each a request to establish a connection over a path in the network, pursuant to a predetermined algorithm the method either services the request, declines to service the request, or services the request after dropping an established connection. In one embodiment, when unused capacity on the path is above a preselected level, all requests are serviced. When unused capacity falls below a preselected threshold, a probabilistic approach is taken as to whether to service the request or not, and as to whether to drop an existing call in order to service the request.